

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

13 AGO 2004

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION
(PCT Rule 66)

To:

ARNAUD, Antonio, M, P
NUNES, Luiz Antonio Ricco
SCATAMBURLO, Paulo Sergio
Rua José Bonifácio, 93 - 9th floor
01003-901 S o Paulo - SP
BRESIL

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 09.08.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
multi-019

REPLY DUE within 3 month(s)
from the above date of mailing

International application No.
PCT/BR 03/00167

International filing date (day/month/year)
17.11.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
25.11.2002

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
E05D11/00

Applicant
MULTIBRAS S.A. ELETRODOMESTICOS et al.

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 25.03.2005

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Gesell, J

Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits)
GEISWILLER-BOUVET, J
Telephone No. +49 89 2399-5895



WRITTEN OPINION

International application No. PCT/BR 03/00167

I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-14 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1,2
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	3,,9--14
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations**see separate sheet**

PARA. V:

US-A-4 543 800 (figures, claims) discloses an

electric supply system for the door 14 of refrigerators and freezers and other appliances comprising a cabinet (16) to which is articulated an end edge of a door 14 carrying an electronic control means, it comprises a connecting means (32,33, fig. 2,3,4,5) mounted to each region of the cabinet which is foreseen to receive and affix a respective hinge (20)

(which in the present case is only a single region)

provided with a tubular hinge pin (24);

an auxiliary electric wiring connecting the connecting means with an internal electric circuit of the appliance;

a duct (21) provided in the door (14) and having an inlet opened to the interior of the door and an outlet opened (at about 26) to the outside of the end edge of the door in a coaxial position in relation to that foreseen for mounting the hinge pin (see fig. 2) of a respective hinge (20), as a function of the opening directions foreseen for the door, a tubular bushing (25) provided at the outlet of the duct 21 receiving and bearing the hinge pin of the hinge;

an electric wiring 22 mounted through the duct 21, from its inlet to its outlet and through the hinge pin of the hinge (fig. 2), in order to have an internal end connected with the electronic control means and an external end electrically coupled to the connecting means 32,33 adjacent to the hinge (20, compare with present claim 1); wherein further

the connecting means (32,33) is mounted inside a respective housing (fig. 3,4) provided on the face of the cabinet to which the hinge is affixed (compare with present claim 2)

US-A-4 671 582 (figures, claims) discloses an electric supply system for the door 20 of refrigerators and freezers and other appliances comprising a cabinet 16 to which is articulated an end edge of a door 20 carrying an electronic control means, it comprises a connecting means (90,190, fig. 9,5,13,14,15) mounted to each region of the cabinet which is foreseen to receive and affix a respective hinge (30)

(which in the present case comprises only several regions)

provided with a tubular hinge pin (fig. 8, 62); an auxiliary electric wiring connecting the connecting means with an internal electric circuit of the appliance;

a duct (no ref., number, hollow interior of the door shown in fig. 5) provided in the door 20 and having an inlet opened to the interior of the door and an outlet opened (at about 21) to the outside of the end edge of the door in a coaxial position in relation to

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that foreseen for mounting the hinge pin (see fig. 5) of a respective hinge , as a function of the opening directions foreseen for the door ,
a tubular bushing (21) is provided at the outlet of the duct receiving and bearing the hinge pin of the hinge ;
an electric wiring 50,52,54,118 is mounted through the duct in the door from its inlet to its outlet and through the hinge pin of the hinge (fig. 8), in order to have an internal end connected with the electronic control means and an external end electrically coupled to the connecting means 90,190 adjacent to the hinge (compare with present claim 1).

Said US-A-4 671 582 obviates the provision of two electrical connector housings on each side of the cabinet frame (see fig. 13, ref. numbers 90,190, compare with present claim 3), each located close to a respective side of the cabinet and housing a connecting means connected to the auxiliary electric wiring .

it is proposed to limit the application to the features according to claim 4, since the duct for the electrical wires in the door in form of a groove defined in the end edge of the door) with which the hinge cooperates, the inlet a) being defined at the bottom of the median region of the groove presenting widened opposite ends defining a pair of outlets, finds no example in the prior art and alleviates to change the opening direction of the door.

Claims 9 to 14 relate to usual constructional details .